

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A magnetic tape drive including a head unit,
the head unit comprising:

a plurality of recording heads ~~which record~~ for recording data on a magnetic tape, the recording heads being aligned in a width direction of the magnetic tape, with adjacent recording heads having different azimuth angles; and

a plurality of reproducing heads for performing a readout of data from the magnetic tape, each reproducing head being disposed downstream in a tape travel direction of a corresponding recording head and having the same azimuth angle as the azimuth angle of the corresponding recording head; and

a servo head ~~which performs~~ for performing a readout of a servo signal recorded on the magnetic tape ~~in order to perform~~ for a tracking control of the head unit, wherein

~~the recording heads are lined up along width directions with respect to the magnetic tape, wherein~~

~~a distance between corresponding points of adjacent recording heads is the same as a distance between corresponding points of adjacent data tracks to be formed on the magnetic tape by the respective recording heads, wherein~~

~~azimuth angles of adjacent recording heads differ with each other, and wherein~~

~~a plurality of data tracks are simultaneously formed on the magnetic tape by respective recording heads, when performing the recording of data on the magnetic tape~~

the head unit further comprises sub-reproducing heads disposed on both sides of each reproducing head in the width direction of the magnetic tape, and the lengths and azimuth angles of the sub-reproducing heads are the same as the lengths and azimuth angles of the respective reproducing heads.

2. (canceled).

3. (currently amended): ~~A~~ The magnetic tape drive according to claim 1,
wherein

~~a width of each reproducing head is longer than in the width direction than of the~~
corresponding recording head.

4. (canceled).

5. (canceled):

6. (currently amended): ~~A~~ The magnetic tape drive according to claim 1,
wherein

only data obtained by a reproducing head or a ~~spare-reproducing~~sub-reproducing head that covers the entire data track in the width direction is used, when two or more of the reproducing ~~heads~~head and the sub-reproducing heads are simultaneously located on the data track.

7. (currently amended): ~~A-~~The magnetic tape drive according to ~~claim 5~~claim 3, wherein

only data obtained by a reproducing head or a ~~spare-reproducing~~sub-reproducing head that covers the entire data track in the width direction is used, when two or more of the reproducing ~~heads~~head and the sub-reproducing heads are simultaneously located on the data track.

8. (currently amended): ~~A-~~The magnetic tape drive according to claim 1, wherein the azimuth angles of the adjacent recording heads are established at predetermined different angles whose absolute values are the same value.

9. (canceled).

10. (currently amended): ~~A-~~The magnetic tape drive according to claim 3, wherein the azimuth angles of the adjacent recording heads are established at predetermined different angles whose absolute values are the same value.

11. (canceled).

12. (canceled).

13. (currently amended): ~~A~~The magnetic tape drive according to claim 6, wherein the azimuth angles of the adjacent recording heads are established at predetermined different angles whose absolute values are the same value.

14. (currently amended): ~~A~~The magnetic tape drive according to claim 7, wherein the azimuth angles of the adjacent recording heads are established at predetermined different angles whose absolute values are the same value.

15. (currently amended): ~~A~~The magnetic tape drive according to claim 1, wherein the azimuth angles of the recording heads differ with each other.

16. (canceled).

17. (currently amended): ~~A~~The magnetic tape drive according to claim 3, wherein the azimuth angles of the recording heads differ with each other.

18. (canceled).

19. (canceled).

20. (currently amended): ~~A~~ The magnetic tape drive according to claim 6, wherein the azimuth angles of the recording heads differ with each other.

21. (currently amended): ~~The magnetic tape drive according to claim 1,~~ A magnetic tape drive including a head unit, the head unit comprising:

a first set of a plurality of recording heads for recording data on a magnetic tape, the recording heads being aligned in a width direction of the magnetic tape, with adjacent recording heads having different azimuth angles;

a second set of a plurality of recording heads for recording data on the magnetic tape, the recording heads being aligned in the width direction of the magnetic tape, and each recording head being aligned in a tape travel direction with a corresponding recording head of the first set and having the same azimuth angle as the azimuth angle of the corresponding recording head of the first set;

a plurality of reproducing heads for performing a readout of data from the magnetic tape, each reproducing head being disposed between a corresponding recording head of the first set and a corresponding recording head of the second set and having the same azimuth angle as the azimuth angle of the corresponding recording heads; and

a servo head for performing a readout of a servo signal recorded on the magnetic tape for a tracking control of the head unit,

the head unit further comprising sub-reproducing heads disposed on both sides of each reproducing head in the width direction of the magnetic tape, and the lengths and azimuth angles of the sub-reproducing heads are the same as the lengths and azimuth angles of the respective reproducing head.~~wherein a first recording head and a second recording head are disposed in a longitudinal direction with respect to the magnetic tape in the head unit, and~~

~~wherein a reproducing head is disposed between the first recording head and the second recording head.~~

22. (currently amended): The magnetic tape drive according to ~~claim 2~~claim 3, wherein the reproducing heads are 1.5 to 2.0 times longer than the recording heads.

23. (previously presented): The magnetic tape drive according to claim 1, wherein a distance between adjacent data tracks is approximately zero.